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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,278	05/08/2001	Thomas M. Rothwein	SBL0008US	3426
60975 7590 03/19/2008 CAMPBELL STEPHENSON LLP 11401 CENTURY OAKS TERRACE BLDG. H, SUITE 250 AUSTIN, TX 78758				
EXAMINER				
PHAM, KHANH B				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2166				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/19/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

09/851,278

Applicant(s)

ROTHWEIN ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh B. Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 56-87 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 56-87 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claim 56-87** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brookler et al. (US 6,754,666 B1), hereinafter "**Brookler**".

As per claim 56, Brookler teaches a method comprising:

- "associating an item with a class" at Col. 7 line 67;
- "wherein the class comprises associated attributes that describe members of the class" at Col. 7 line 66;
- "said associating the item comprises selecting the class such that each associated attribute has a non-null value in describing the item" at Col. 5 lines 1-12;
- "storing a first record associating the item with the selected class" at Col. 10 lines 4-12 and Figs. 4-10;

- “storing a second record associating the item with each associated attribute of the class and a value of the attribute describing the item” at Col. 10 lines 4-39 and Figs. 4-10.

As per claim 57, Brookler teaches the computer-implemented method of Claim 56 wherein “said selecting the class further comprises: selecting the class from a class hierarchy, wherein the class hierarchy comprises child classes and associated parent classes, and a child class inherits each attribute of the associated parent class” at Col. 8 lines 45-49.

As per claim 58, Brookler teaches the computer-implemented method of Claim 57, wherein “the associated attributes of a child class further comprise an additional set of attributes not inherited from the associated parent class” at Col. 11 lines 1-15.

As per claim 59, Brookler teaches the computer-implemented method of Claim 58 wherein “said selecting the class further comprises: determining a class in the hierarchy that has associated attributes necessary to describing the item” at Col. 11 lines 17-60.

As per claim 60, Brookler teaches the computer-implemented method of Claim 56, wherein “said storing the first record is to a first memory structure, and said storing the second record is to a second memory structure” at Figs. 4-10.

As per claim 61, Brookler teaches the computer-implemented method of Claim 60 wherein “the first and second memory structures are distinct from one another” at Figs. 4-10.

As per claim 62, Brookler teaches the computer-implemented method of Claim 60 wherein “the first and second memory structures are tables in a database” at Figs. 4-10.

As per claim 63, Brookler teaches the computer-implemented method of Claim 56 wherein “the associated attributes are metadata of the class” at Col. 8 lines 10-30.

Claims 64-87 are directed to apparatus, system and computer storage medium for performing similar method as in claims 56-63 and are therefore rejected by the same reasons.

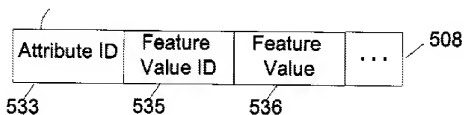
Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed December 21, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner respectfully traverses applicant's arguments.

Regarding claim 56, applicant argued that Brookler does not teach “storing a second record associating the item with each associated attribute of the class and a value of the attribute describing the item”. On the contrary, Brookler clearly teaches this

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limitation at least at Fig. 5, where record 508 includes both attribute of the class (i.e., "Attribute ID" and the value of the attribute (i.e. "Feature Value."))



Brookler explains the use of record 508 at lines 38-41: "In the example of feature value table 708, a value of 4, 16 or 64 MB of memory may be assigned as a value of attribute 2 associated with, for example a data item", as shown in Fig. 7 reproduced below:

Diagram illustrating the structure of record 708. The record is a horizontal row divided into four cells. The first cell is labeled "Attribute ID" with reference numeral 734 above it. The second cell is labeled "Feature Value ID" with reference numeral 735 above it. The third cell is labeled "Feature Value" with reference numeral 708 above it. The fourth cell contains an ellipsis "...". A bracket on the right side of the row is labeled 508.

Attribute ID	Feature Value ID	Feature Value
2	1	64 MB
2	2	16 MB
2	3	4 MB

Further, Brookler teaches at Fig. 8 record 800 associates an item (i.e. "Acme Laptop") with associated attributes (i.e. "Price", "Weight", "Memory") and values of the attributes describing the item (i.e. "\$2500.00", "8.22 lbs", "64 MB").

Fig. 8

UFI ID	Category ID	Description	Price	Weight	Memory
3	2	Acme Laptop	\$2,500.00	8.22 lbs	64 MB

In light of the foregoing arguments, the 35 U.S.C 102 rejection is hereby sustained.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Khanh B. Pham/
Primary Examiner
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March 11, 2008